

Copy onto 8-1/2 X 11" letterhead

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: **County Clerk**
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave., L#1210
Ventura, CA 93009

FROM: **Ventura County**
Fire Protection District
165 Durley Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010

Office of Planning and Research
1440 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Only if State discretionary approval is required)

JUN - 9 2009 POSTED
JAMES B. BECKER
Assistant County Clerk and Recorder
By: _____, Deputy

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entitlement: Casitas Fuel Bed, Fire Roads and Fuel Break Maintenance

Applicant: Ventura County Fire Protection District

Address: 165 Durley Ave, Camarillo

Phone: 805 388-4584

FILED
DATE: JUN - 9 2009
JAMES B. BECKER
Assistant County Clerk and Recorder
By: F. Ocampo, Deputy

Location:

County: Ventura

The project is bordered on the north by the Ventura County Line, on the south by Hwy 101, on the east by the Ventura/Ojai Fuel Beds and on the west by the Ventura County Line.

Assessor Parcel No(s): See map

Project Description: The Casitas fuel bed, fire roads and fuel breaks provide a fire access and defensible space for the communities contained within the project location. The following are fire roads and fuel breaks within the fuel bed: Chismahoo Fire Road approx 1.73 miles with access from the Casitas Fire Road. Casitas Fire Road approx 4.8 miles with access from Casitas Visa Road. Padre Juan Fire Road and Fuel Break approx 6.2 with access from Red Mountain Fire Road and Hobson Road/Hwy 101. Red Mountain Fire Road/Fuel Break approx 13 miles with access from Casitas Vista Road and Casitas Pass Road (Hwy 150 near Summit. Rodriquez Fire Road/Fuel Break approx 2.6 miles with access from Red Mountain East Fire Road and the Shell oil fields. The existing fire road systems are not all weather roads and require annual maintenance. Existing fire road systems will be maintained by the use of heavy equipment which could include dozer, road grader and back hoe. In addition to the grading of the road surface, all drainage systems will be maintained in working order and configured to reduce adverse environmental impacts. Brush adjacent to and impacting the road systems and fuel breaks shall be maintained to desired levels using some or all of the following methods. Dozing, hand cutting and chipping, mechanical mowing, cut stack and pile burning, discing, and grazing.

B. CONTACTS:

B. Public Agency Approving Project: Ventura County Fire Protection District

Contact Person: Captain Brendan Ripley

Telephone No.: 805 388-4589

C. EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 15268)
- Emergency Project (Sec.)
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15301)
Type: **Class 1;** §15301 Existing Facilities

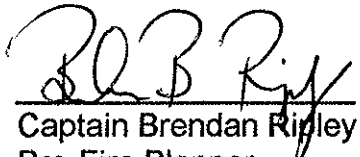
The proposed project is not located in a hazardous or critical environmental resource area (Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11), there are no significant adverse cumulative impacts, and there are no unusual circumstances which would cause significant effects.

- No Impact: (Sec. 15061 [b][3])
- Other Statutory Exemption (Sec.)

D. STATEMENT OF REASON TO SUPPORT EXEMPT FINDING:

The Fire Road and Fuel Break system contained within the Casitas Fuel Bed has been in existence for 40+ years. Exemption falls within the maintenance component of the CEQA Statute. Heavy equipment will be used for maintenance, brushing, and to achieve proper height and clearance for all fire roads and fuel breaks. The remainder of work will be accomplished by hand utilizing chain saws, and other hand equipment.

DATE OF PROJECT APPROVAL:

Prepared by: 
Captain Brendan Ripley
Pre-Fire Planner
Wildland Division